

Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SCS-03 SCA-01 /082 W

----- 056683

R 300255Z DEC 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8516

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 15191

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR BTRA ECON VS VN

SUBJECT: AMERICAN CHURCHMAN VISITS VIETNAM

1. WHILE WAITING AT VIENTIANE AIRPORT FOR DEPARTURE TO BANGKOK, CONGEN OFFICER MET AN AMERICAN CLERGYMAN FROM THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (AND DIRECTOR OF THE FUND FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND RECONCILIATION IN INDOCHINA). THE CLERGYMAN, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE, EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD JUST GOTTEN OFF A PLANE FROM HANOI AFTER A FIFTEEN DAY STAY IN VIETNAM.

2. HE MENTIONED THAT DURING HIS VISIT HE FLEW TO SAIGON FOR FOUR DAYS WHERE HE AND HIS WIFE VISITED A NEW DEVELOPMENT AREA 59 KILOMETERS NORTH OF SAIGON. (NORTH OF "THE IRON TRIANGLE" ACCORDING TO HIS WIFE.) HE DESCRIBED THE SETTLEMENT AS A VERY SIMPLE BEING MADE OF BAMBOO HUTS BUT FULL OF ENTHUSIASTIC PEOPLE.

3. HE NOTED THAT HE HAD VISITED SAIGON BEFORE AND THAT THERE WAS MUCH LESS OF A MILITARY PRESENCE THERE THAN PREVIOUSLY. (HE SEEMED TO BE REFERRING TO VISITS AFTER THE
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FALL OF SAIGON.) WHILE IN SAIGON HE STAYED AT THE CARAVELLE

HOTEL AND WAS INFORMED BY A UN OFFICIAL THAT SOME AMERICAN
BUSINESSMEN WERE ALSO STAYING AT THE HOTEL ALTHOUGH HE
DID NOT PERSONALLY SEE THEM.
CROSS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: VISITS, CLERGYMEN
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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